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Let us continue the struggle because the light is clealry visible at the end of the tunnel...

So much has been said and written about East Timor in Philippines in these last few days that one can be understood if one says: what more can I add? .

As a Timorese, I must , on the outset, state here how happy I am to be here. Indeed, with the solidarity I have experienced here, there are no words to accurately expressed how grateful we, as Timorese are. So I do feel so privileged to be here today, and above all, to know have had a golden opportunity to speak on behalf of my suffering people. Man, women and children have been killed in these last twenty years without even have the chance to make the world here their crying. We are here, therefore, to make sure that those thousands of Timorese women being raped by barbarous men who called themselves soldiers and have been looting my country for the last nineteen years; we are here to echo the voices of those young women and children who have disappeared without a trace; we are here to raise the voices of this oppressed people... and let's do it as we have been doing in these last historical days: raise their voices to the point where no guns can silenced them again!

And for that, I do not apologise for using every forum in this planet to make the voice of my people heard; and I will make sure their voices of freedom are heard; I will never ever allow the walls of the dictatorships to silenced them. Never!

After all that have been written, it goes without saying that one must struggle continuously using whatever means possible to stop the suffering of my people.

Over these last nineteen years, East Timor have gone through traumatic experiences. From almost a war of extermination, we have risen to the centre of the international arena largely due to the sacrifices of those who chose not to betray, but to give their lives or their individual future to safeguard the interest of the entire nation.

One of the events which highlighted the question of East Timor in the international arena, was undoubtedly the infamous massacre of Santa Cruz, November 12 1991.

The blood shed by those courageous Timorese have maintained the focus of East Timor as it never happened before.
The tragedy continuous, however. As I am speaking to you here, I believe Timorese are being arrested somewhere in East Timor. On the 29 May, newspapers in Portugal published a report received from the clandestine front in East Timor stating that 10 (ten) Timorese were captured and torture by the Indonesian troops. Their names were given and the group was accused as having being responsible in the preparation of protests leading to the last May 6 talks in Geneva. According to the document, these were not the only arrests that took place. So, we can expect more bad news soon.

In another camp, Jakarta, "Jornal de Noticias" in Portugal, published another news saying that three Timorese were arrested and tortured in Jakarta.

Dr George Aditjondro, an Indonesian scholar and an university lecturer in research methodology, in his interview pertaining to this conference published by the indonesian magazine The Editor, he said the following:

I quote

"the foreign ministry (of Indonesia) has recently signed a communique in Geneva (May 6 Talks) saying that we (Indonesia) are ready to have dialogue with anti-integration groups. On the other hand, there have been arrests in Java of anti-integration people. The commander of Korem in Dili has said that if the clandestine emerge, 'I will crush them.' Crushing people is quite different from dialogue, isn't it? This week people were arrested in Malang". end of quote

These are words of an Indonesian patriot who is clearly conscious of the need to look seriously into the question of a solution for East Timor.

This is perhaps, the point I will focus on today. There is a Peace Plan devised by the National Council of Maubere Resistance. It is a comprehensive plan which envisaged several stages through which a gradual withdrawal of the Indonesian armed forces and civil servants will be processed, and, ultimately, a referendum will be held in order to safeguard the universal rights of the people of East Timor, specially in the fundamental rights to self-determination and independence. The entire process is to be held under the auspices of the United Nations, and when necessary, with the conditions and infrastructures created by the UN itself.

The rationale upon which this Peace Plan was conceived was precisely based on the fact that militarily we, the Timorese, can not realistically force the Indonesian military to withdraw from East Timor. However, our national leader, Xanana Gusmao himself have stated in the faked trial he was subjected to in Dili last year, Indonesia must now be prepared to accept that it had lost the political battle in East Timor.

Since than, Xanana's statement was recently supported by the Indonesian armed forces commander in East Timor, colonel Johnny Lumintang. He said in a recent interview to the Jakarta-based foreign journalists that *"it is true that we have not got the sympathy of the people. The problem is not settled"*. His senior, the regional commander, Major General Adang Ruchiatna, described East Timor as a *"pebble in Indonesia's shoes"* and added that his armed forces needed more time to "*change the mentality of the people"* from a climate of fear. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 18/4/94).

It is clear that the Indonesian military fear that a referendum will not swing the pendulum to their side. It is a matter of fact that after almost twenty years resisting this barbaric military occupation, few, (if any) Timorese will vote for integration if it is to be done through a genuine act of self-determination, whereby the people will freely be given the chance to choose their future.

The priority now is keep on exerting the necessary diplomatic pressure to force Indonesia out of its inflexible stand. Indonesia demands that Portugal rescinds on its right to claim the status of administrative power, as envisaged under the United nations Charter. Prior to the last round of talks, May 6, Ali Alatas stated that if Portugal continues to claim this status, Indonesia will walk out of the talks. But he did not! Instead, as Dr George Aditjondro has said, Alatas signed a communique whereby he agreed to receive a delegation of the Resistance of East Timor. This is so, because the pressure being exerted by all our friends in the broad spectrum of solidarity, has been effective in highlighting the illegality and the indefensibility of the occupation of East Timor by the Indonesian regime.

So, how to get out of this impasse? The Peace Plan of the CNRM articulates and proposes the following: .
(read the leaflet from "East Timor Peace Plan)

One day before the last May 6 Talk in Geneva, Konis Santana, the leader of CNRM in the mountains of East Timor, sent a letter to the Secretary-General whereby he appealed to the Secretary-General to support the Peace Plan of CNRM. This is what I believe should also be done here, in this historical conference. Supporting this Peace Plan will enhanced the fact that the struggle of the Timorese People is not against Indonesia, let alone against the Indonesian people; the struggle of the Timorese people is only against the illegal and barbaric occupation of our country and we demand the right to live the way we want, and to choose freely our future as the people of Indonesia did demand from the colonial master of Netherlands.

So long as this right is not met, we will continue to resist until we win. If we have lasted these nineteen years against all odds, we can now surely say to all of you, that the light is, indeed, clearly visible at the end of the tunnel. And all those who have added their sacrifice to ours, here, for the APCET conference, my dear friends, all I can ask you is: for the sake of democracy and freedom for us all, please don't allow this candle to fade away now!

Ines THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES IN EVERY FRONT!
TO RESIST IS TO WIN!
~~FREE~~ LONG LIVE Kanaka Gusmão
" " " THE HEROIC Maubere People
" " " SOLIDARITY MOVEMENT!

- Intervenção de INÊS DE ALMEIDA d APCET